

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A data distribution system comprising:

an information terminal operable to request distribution of multimedia information including still picture data, moving picture data or audio data in a predetermined data format, and automatically transmit a specification of said information terminal when transmitting an information provision request which requests distribution of the information; and

an information provider apparatus operable to provide the multimedia information to said information terminal, ~~wherein;~~

~~said information terminal is operable to automatically transmit specifications of said information terminal when transmitting an information provision request which requests distribution of the information; and~~

wherein said information provider apparatus comprises:

a receiving unit operable to receive the information provision request and the information terminal ~~specifications~~ specification transmitted from said information terminal;

a data storage unit operable to store and manage various kinds of information data;

a data detection unit operable to detect ~~data~~ from said data storage unit, data corresponding to the information provision request received by said receiving unit;

a data conversion unit operable to convert the data detected by said data detection unit to data having a low quality which is adaptable to an information reproduction capability of said information terminal which is determined by the information terminal ~~specifications~~ specification received by said receiving unit, the converted data being in the same data format as the data which is reproducible by said information terminal; ~~and~~

a transmission unit operable to transmit the data converted by said data conversion unit to said information terminal;

an accounting management unit operable to determine an accounting amount according to the data transmitted to said information terminal, and perform accounting for a user of the information; and

a customer database operable to store and manage a usage history of the user of said information terminal;

wherein said accounting management unit is operable to determine the accounting amount according to the usage history of the user of said information terminal stored in said customer database and the amount of the data transmitted to said information terminal, and perform accounting for the user of said information terminal; and

wherein when a target of the information provision request transmitted from said information terminal to said information provision apparatus is still picture data, the specification of the information terminal includes at least one of a number of pixels, a gradation sequence, a compression ratio, a number of reproducible frames, and a storage capacity.

26-28. (Cancelled).

29. (Currently amended) ~~The data distribution system of Claim 27,~~ A data distribution system comprising:

an information terminal operable to request distribution of multimedia information including still picture data, moving picture data or audio data in a predetermined data format, and automatically transmit a specification of said information terminal when transmitting an information provision request which requests distribution of the information; and

an information provider apparatus operable to provide the multimedia information to said information terminal,

wherein said information provider apparatus comprises:

a receiving unit operable to receive the information provision request and the information terminal specification transmitted from said information terminal;

a data storage unit operable to store and manage various kinds of information data;

a data detection unit operable to detect, from said data storage unit, data corresponding to the information provision request received by said receiving unit;

a data conversion unit operable to convert the data detected by said data detection unit to data having a low quality which is adaptable to an information reproduction capability of said information terminal which is determined by the information terminal specification received by said receiving unit, the converted data being in the same data format as the data which is reproducible by said information terminal;

a transmission unit operable to transmit the data converted by said data conversion unit to said information terminal;

an accounting management unit operable to determine an accounting amount according to the data transmitted to said information terminal, and perform accounting for a user of the information; and

a customer database operable to store and manage a usage history of the user of said information terminal;

wherein said accounting management unit is operable to determine the accounting amount according to the usage history of the user of said information terminal stored in said customer database and the amount of the data transmitted to said information terminal, and perform accounting for the user of said information terminal; and

wherein when a target for the information provision request transmitted from said information terminal to said information provider apparatus is moving picture data, the ~~specifications~~ specification of said information terminal ~~include information of~~ includes at least one ~~selected from~~ of a number of pixels, a ~~tone~~ gradation sequence, a compression ratio, a reproduction time, and a storage capacity.

30. (Currently amended) ~~The data distribution system of Claim 27, A data distribution system comprising:~~

an information terminal operable to request distribution of multimedia information including still picture data, moving picture data or audio data in a predetermined data format, and automatically transmit a specification of said information terminal when transmitting an information provision request which requests distribution of the information; and

an information provider apparatus operable to provide the multimedia information to said information terminal,

wherein said information provider apparatus comprises:

a receiving unit operable to receive the information provision request and the information terminal specification transmitted from said information terminal;

a data storage unit operable to store and manage various kinds of information data;

a data detection unit operable to detect, from said data storage unit, data corresponding to the information provision request received by said receiving unit;

a data conversion unit operable to convert the data detected by said data detection unit to data having a low quality which is adaptable to an information reproduction capability of said information terminal which is determined by the information terminal specification received by said receiving unit, the converted data being in the same data format as the data which is reproducible by said information terminal;

a transmission unit operable to transmit the data converted by said data conversion unit to said information terminal;

an accounting management unit operable to determine an accounting amount according to the data transmitted to said information terminal, and perform accounting for a user of the information; and

a customer database operable to store and manage a usage history of the user of said information terminal;

wherein said accounting management unit is operable to determine the accounting amount according to the usage history of the user of said information terminal stored in

said customer database and the amount of the data transmitted to said information terminal, and perform accounting for the user of said information terminal; and

wherein when a target for the information provision request transmitted from said information terminal to said information provider apparatus is audio data, the ~~specifications~~ specification of said information terminal ~~include information of~~ includes at least one ~~selected from of~~ a sampling rate, a frequency band region, a compression ratio, a reproduction time, and a storage capacity.

31-48. (Cancelled)

49. (New) A data distribution system as defined in claim 25, wherein:

said information terminal is assigned an information terminal ID, and is operable to transmit the information terminal ID of said information terminal to said information provider apparatus when transmitting the information provision request to said information provider apparatus;

said information provider apparatus further includes an information terminal database for storing and managing the information terminal ID and the information terminal specification of said information terminal received by said receiving unit in correspondence with each other;

for each information provision request subsequent to the information provision request for which said information terminal transmitted the information terminal specification to said information provider apparatus, said information terminal is operable to transmit the information terminal ID to said information provider apparatus without transmitting the information terminal specification that was previously transmitted to said information provider apparatus; and

said receiving unit is operable to receive the information terminal ID, and detect the information terminal specification of said information terminal corresponding to the received information terminal ID from said information terminal database.

50. (New) A data distribution system as defined in claim 29, wherein:

said information terminal is assigned an information terminal ID, and is operable to transmit the information terminal ID of said information terminal to said information provider apparatus when transmitting the information provision request to said information provider apparatus;

said information provider apparatus further includes an information terminal database for storing and managing the information terminal ID and the information terminal specification of said information terminal received by said receiving unit in correspondence with each other;

for each information provision request subsequent to the information provision request for which said information terminal transmitted the information terminal specification to said information provider apparatus, said information terminal is operable to transmit the information terminal ID to said information provider apparatus without transmitting the information terminal specification that was previously transmitted to said information provider apparatus; and

said receiving unit is operable to receive the information terminal ID, and detect the information terminal specification of said information terminal corresponding to the received information terminal ID from said information terminal database.

51. (New) A data distribution system as defined in claim 30, wherein:

said information terminal is assigned an information terminal ID, and is operable to transmit the information terminal ID of said information terminal to said information provider apparatus when transmitting the information provision request to said information provider apparatus;

said information provider apparatus further includes an information terminal database for storing and managing the information terminal ID and the information terminal specification of said information terminal received by said receiving unit in correspondence with each other;

for each information provision request subsequent to the information provision request for which said information terminal transmitted the information terminal specification to said information provider apparatus, said information terminal is operable to transmit the information terminal ID to said information provider apparatus without

transmitting the information terminal specification that was previously transmitted to said information provider apparatus; and

said receiving unit is operable to receive the information terminal ID, and detect the information terminal specification of said information terminal corresponding to the received information terminal ID from said information terminal database.